

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6828

UNCLAS WARSAW 6148

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL PL

SUBJECT: GARRICK OHLSSON CONTINUES RETURN TOUR OF POLAND

FOR: IBS, IPS, IEE

1. "IT'S BEEN JUST GREAT SO FAR" SAYS GARRICK OHLSSON OF HIS CURRENT TOUR IN POLAND, THE FIRST SINCE TAKING FIRST PRIZE IN THE INTERNATIONAL CHOPIN COMPETITION IN OCTOBER OF 1970. "IT'S BEEN WONDERFUL TO BE BACK. I NOW PLAY 80 TO 90 CONCERT DATES A SEASON AROUND THE WORLD BUT NOTHING CAN COME CLOSE TO DUPLICATING THE RECEPTION I'VE RECEIVED HERE. IT'S OVER-WHELMING. I LOVE PLAYING FOR POLISH AUDIENCES AND PERFORMING HERE WILL ALWAYS MEAN SOMETHING SPECIAL TO ME".

2. GARRICK OHLSSON MADE THESE REMARKS SHORTLY AFTER RETURNING TO WARSAW FROM CONCERTS IN KATOWICE ON NOVEMBER 27 AND KRAKOW ON NOVEMBER 28. HIS POPULARITY PROVED TO BE ENORMOUS IN BYDGOSZCZ AND WROCLAW LAST WEEK, AND LARGE AND APPRECIATIVE AUDIENCES AWAITED HIM IN KATOWICE AND KRAKOW AS WELL. ACCORDING TO SOME KATOWICE SOURCES, 1,400 PEOPLE ATTENDED HIS RECITAL IN A HALL SEATING ONLY 700, A SITUATION ALMOST REPEATED IN KRAKOW WHERE, ONCE AGAIN, ALL AISLE SPACE AND STAGE SEATS WERE FILLED.

3. OHLSSON REPEATED HIS PROGRAM OF WORKS BY SCRIABIN, BEETHOVE, SCHUMAN AND CHOPIN IN BOTH CITIES, AND THRUNEROUS APPLAUSE BROUGHT HIM BACK ON BOTH OCCASIONS FOR FOUR ENCORES. OHLSSON RESPONDED TO HIS OVATIONS WITH CHOPIN FAVORITES.

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4. AFTER THREE CONCERTS IN WARSAW THIS WEEKEND, TWO WITH THE NATIONAL PHILHARMONIC IN WHICH HE WILL PERFORM BEETHOVEN'S CONCERT NO. 5 IN E-FLAT MAJOR, OPUS 73, AND ONE IN RECITAL, ALL AT THE SALA KONCERTOWA, OHLSSON DEPARTS MONDAY FOR CONCERTS IN MUNICH, BELGRADE, AND LONDON. HE RETURNS HOME TO NEW YORK JUST BEFORE THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.  
DAVIES

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